

Influenza Watch – San Diego County, California

Influenza Surveillance Update for Week 14 (ending April 8, 2006)

UPDATE FOR CURRENT WEEK The Public Health Laboratory (PHL) received an increased number of influenza B positive reports from rapid-test detections in San Diego County. Overall, the majority of detections reported this season have been influenza A(H3N2), although more influenza B detection reports have been received in recent weeks. One San Diego County influenza A isolate from early on in the 2005-06 season strain typed as A/Wisconsin/67/2005-like by the CDC, a strain antigenically similar to the A/California/7/2004-like (H3N2) strain.

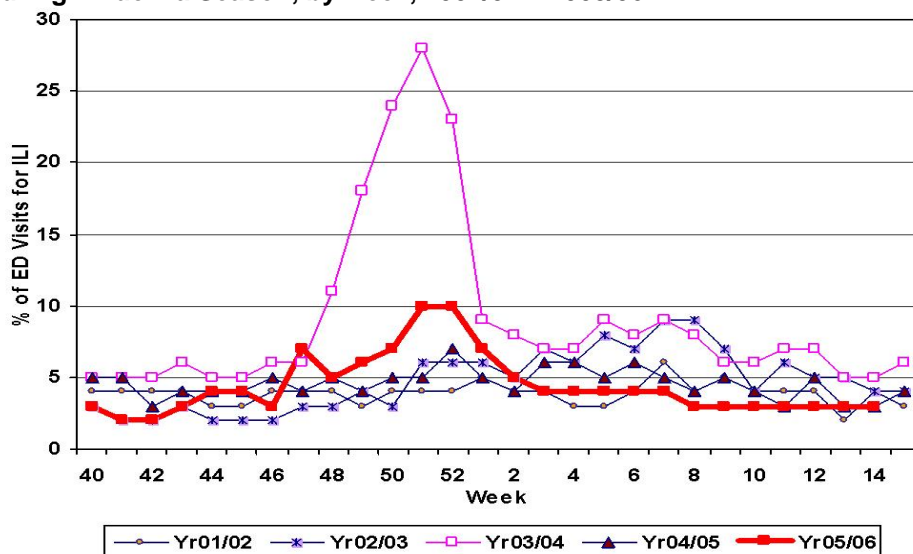
Emergency Department ILI **3%** (See Figure 1)

School Absenteeism

Elementary Schools: **5%**

Middle/High Schools: **8%**

Figure 1. Percent of Influenza-Like-Illness Visits to Sentinel Emergency Departments in San Diego County During Influenza Season, by week, 2001/02 – 2005/06



VIRAL ISOLATION AND DETECTION San Diego County Public Health Laboratory (PHL) has culture-confirmed and characterized several influenza isolates from patient specimens submitted by participating providers. Sixty-six influenza isolates have been subtyped as influenza A (H3N2), and one isolate was confirmed as influenza type B. Additionally, 7 of the 66 influenza A (H3N2) isolates have also been strain typed as A/California/7/2004-like by the State Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory (VRDL), and one was strain typed as A/Wisconsin/67/2005-like by the CDC. One influenza B isolate was strain typed as influenza B/Shanghai/361/2002-like. Strain types identified are those included in the current 2005-06 influenza vaccine, with the exception of the A/Wisconsin/67/2005-like strain, which cross-reacts with the vaccine strain, A/California/7/2004 (H3N2).

INFLUENZA DETECTION REPORTING Local healthcare providers are encouraged to perform rapid flu tests on any patient presenting with influenza-like-illness, and to report positive influenza results by fax to the Public Health Laboratory at **(619) 692-8558**. ILI is defined as fever $>100^{\circ}\text{F}$ AND cough and/or sore throat.

SEVERE PEDIATRIC INFLUENZA CASE REPORTING Statewide surveillance for severe pediatric influenza was initiated October 1, 2005 by the California Department of Health Services. The case definition is as follows: age 0-17 years, AND a clinical syndrome consistent with influenza or complications of influenza, AND confirmation by laboratory testing for influenza, AND hospitalization in the ICU and/or death, with no period of complete recovery between the illness and death. Please report all cases of severe pediatric influenza to Community Epidemiology by fax (619) 515-6644 or telephone (619) 515-6620.

ADDITIONAL INFLUENZA RESOURCES

California State DHS influenza surveillance: <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/VRDL/html/FLU/Fluintro.htm>

CDC influenza information: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/flu/weekly.htm>